

Kennedy Lauds Nobel Winners at White House

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WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy told his guests at a dinner for Nobel prize winners Sunday night that he considered this "the most extraordinary collection of talent, of human knowledge that has ever been gathered together at the White House."

Then he added with a gay touch of humor, "with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

The President raised his glass in a champagne toast to an illustrious gathering that included the 49 Nobel prize winners from the western hemisphere and out-

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FAMOUS GUESTS AT WHITE HOUSE ¹⁹⁶²

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standing men and women from the fields of art, science and education.

Noting that the Nobel prize was established without regard to nationality of the winners, Kennedy said, "There is no nationality in the acquisition of knowledge."

But, he said he took satisfaction in the fact that this hemisphere has been able to develop "an atmosphere which has permitted the happy pursuit of knowledge, and of peace, and that over 40% of the Nobel prizes in the last 30 years have gone to men and women in this hemisphere."

And, he added it was a particular pleasure that 13 Nobel prizes for peace have gone to those who live in this hemisphere.

The President, who had invited 173 guests to the unprecedented White House dinner party, said it was an attempt to acknowledge that the "pursuit of knowledge and peace are very basic drives and pressures in this life of ours" and "to encourage young Americans and young people in this hemisphere to develop the same drive and deep desire for knowledge and peace."

Taking upon himself later to thank the President on behalf of all those present, Dr. William B. Shockley of Palo Alto, Cal., 1956 Nobel prize winner in physics, said the dinner recognized the importance of technical progress to the welfare of the country because it is "the intellectual capital of the country."

The President, and Mrs. Kennedy, who wore a pale green chiffon dress, personally greeted their guests and chatted with them during the long evening and signed autographs on the engraved dinner menus which each guest was given.

The guest list included Dr. Linus Pauling, who had changed from a raincoat in which he joined peace marchers in front of the White House in the afternoon, into a tuxedo. Pauling won the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1954.

'Old Home Week'

He said the evening affair was like "old home week" among the scientists and men of letters.

A gay atmosphere prevailed and Mrs. Kennedy watched with amusement as some of the guests set a precedent and danced to waltzes on the marble floor of the north entrance hallway where the Air Force strolling strings musicians had been playing dinner music. Usually there is no dancing.

Actor Fredric March, chosen to deliver an after-dinner program of dramatic readings from late Nobel prize winners, presented a half-hour of excerpts from Hemingway, Gen. George C. Marshall and novelist Sinclair Lewis.

March said Mrs. Mary Hemingway contacted him to provide a heretofore unpublished work of Hemingway when she heard that March first planned to read from her husband's short story "The Killers." Instead, Mrs. Hemingway provided Chapter 15 of what she said is a short novel and she wrote a brief introduction to go with the reading explaining that the novel is about an American artist named Thomas

The guest list included persons not only famed but also controversial.

The presence of another guest, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, had aroused some political overtones.

A brilliant physicist, Oppenheimer played an important part in developing the atomic bomb. But in 1954 the Atomic Energy Commission voted 4 to 1 to withdraw Oppenheimer's clearance for access to top-secret information.

The AEC did not question Oppenheimer's loyalty or accuse him of any conduct prejudicial to national security. But it held that his associations were such that it was felt there was some risk that he might, perhaps inadvertently, disclose secret information.

Oppenheimer's inclusion brought a political shot from a Republican senator but neither the White House nor Oppenheimer had any comment.

Convicted of Perjury

Sen. Mundt (R-S.D.), a long-time foe of Oppenheimer, called the invitation "unfortunate but not surprising." He added in an interview, "I hope, but not too confidently, that Alger Hiss won't be the next one invited."

Hiss, a former State Department official, was convicted of perjury for denying Communist connections.

The widow of Nobel prize winner Ernest Hemingway provided a chapter from an unpublished short novel by her husband to be read at the dinner.

The gathering drew together 49 of the prize winners and provided probably one of the most outstanding gatherings of famous personalities in literature and science and international peace prize winners that the White House has ever had on one occasion.

Hudson who used his own fishing boat to hunt German submarines off the coast of Cuba in 1942.

From her brief description the unknown Hemingway novel appears to be in the tradition of adventure-seeking heroes that he made famous and which won him the Nobel prize for literature in 1954.

March said his reading of the Hemingway chapter was the major part of his program, running 20 minutes. He also selected the introduction to Sinclair Lewis' "Main Street" and three key paragraphs from the famous Marshall Plan speech delivered by the general at Harvard University in 1947.

Both Mrs. Hemingway and Mrs. Marshall were in the audience as guests of the President and Mrs. Kennedy at the unique dinner.

Also present was Lt. Col. John H. Glenn Jr., the first American to orbit the earth.